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accused expressed regret and may I know whether the Government are in the habit of issuing instructions in almost all cases of this kind?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No, Sir. Whenever we consider it necessary, we instruct our counsel—he is our counsel and we are entitled to give him instructions—with regard to the particular circumstances of the case. Taking into account the entire circumstances of the case, these instructions were also issued by the Government.

Stipends to House-surgeons in Government General Hospital, Madras

9-10 a.m. * 3447 Q.—SRI S. R. ARUMUGHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Lady House Surgeons who were given stipends in the Government General Hospital, Madras, from 1st January 1955 to date;

(b) the number among them that belong to the Backward and other classes;

(c) whether any concession is shown to the House Surgeons belonging to the Backward classes?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: (a) Twenty-six.

(b) Out of the 26 women House Surgeons, five belong to the Backward classes, one belongs to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and the rest belong to other communities.

(c) Yes, Sir. Separate lists are prepared for candidates from the Backward classes and Scheduled castes and Tribes in the order of their merit and selection of stipendiaries is made in accordance with the rule relating to the reservation of appointments in public service.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI: Sir, why should not the Government think of paying this stipend to all the persons, who are House Surgeons.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: That will involve more finance.

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM: Sir, very few ladies have come up as doctors as a result of reservation of seats in the selection to the M.B.B.S. Course. What is the harm in giving stipends to all the Lady House Surgeons? That will enable the Backward communities to come in more numbers to the medical line.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: Women candidates who pass the M.B.B.S. degree examination, just like the men candidates, will have to undergo the House Surgeons' Course and those who come to the Medical colleges are people who can afford to spend money. There is no need to make any distinction between men and women.

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SRI A. M. RATHNASWAMY : Sir, is it not a fact that there are qualified persons among Harijans? I understand that there are certain women Medical graduates in the Harijan community. What is the difficulty in the way of the Government entertaining them as House Surgeons?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : All those who pass have to undergo training as House Surgeons and they are selected for such training.

DR. K. B. MENON : The Hon. Minister, I am sure, is aware that there are only about 100 House Surgeons in the General Hospital and perhaps a few more in other hospitals. A certain percentage is given to them as allowance and all of them are not financially very competent. Will the Government therefore consider the desirability of extending this sum of Rs. 75 as living allowance to these House Surgeons?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : All the passed candidates are selected for House Surgeonship training every year. The selection is made twice a year and half of the number are given subsistence allowance.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : May I know whether the selection of House Surgeons is made from the general pool or from the applications of Backward classes and Scheduled Castes and Tribes quota?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : In January 1955, July 1955 and January 1956 altogether 26 Women House Surgeons have been selected for this training. Out of them, five belong to the Backward classes and one to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Sir, the Hon. Minister said in his answer that one candidate belonged to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. May I know whether the candidate belongs to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes? May I know whether the rules relating to reservation are observed by the Government with reference to this selection?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No distinction is made between Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI : The Hon. Minister said that only persons who can afford are coming to the Medical colleges. Nowadays candidates belonging to the Backward classes and Scheduled Castes are getting scholarships from the Central Government. But the Government are paying this scholarship only for 4½ years. What about the other one year? Why should not the Government think of paying this stipend to all candidates belonging to the Backward classes and Scheduled Castes?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Proper reservation is made for Backward classes and for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the selection of House Surgeons.

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SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, to make myself clear to the Hon. Minister, may I know whether the principle of reservation to Scheduled Castes and Backward classes is applied to the selection of House Surgeons and whether the ratio is maintained?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir. Just as it is done in the case of selection for appointments, the same communal rotation is followed and people are selected according to the percentage of seats reserved for them.

Kerala Sahitya Parishad at Badagara

* 3448 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Commercial Tax Officer North Malabar, is recovering entertainment tax for the performance of dance-drama held in connection with the Annual Conference of the Kerala Sahitya Parishad at Badagara in North Malabar during May 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : On a representation received from the Secretary, Samastha Kerala Sahitya Parishad Conference, Badagara, the Government have recently issued orders exempting the performance referred to from liability to entertainments tax.

Electricity supply to Puttur Panchayat Board

* 3449 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKATARAMANA GOWDA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 319 given on 14th December 1954, the present stage of the proposal to extend electricity supply to Puttur Panchayat Board from Mangalore?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : A major ten year scheme for extension of supply of power from Mangalore Sub-station to Puttur and surrounding areas has just been received from the Chief Engineer (Electricity) and is under the consideration of the Government.

Electric calling bells in Ophthalmic Hospital, Egmore

* 3450 *Q.*—DR. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there are electric calling bells in special wards in the Ophthalmic Hospital, Egmore?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—No, Sir.

DR. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. Minister consider the matter and provide calling bells as it is an absolute necessity as patients, who have undergone operations, are not even allowed to stir out from their beds?